



CITY MANAGER

Indianola Wastewater Treatment Plant

Fact Sheet

January 21, 2020

- Indianola is pursuing the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. The innovative yet efficient new facility will replace the outdated plant and meet Iowa's new, stricter environmental regulations for such facilities.
- The new plant will be named the Indianola Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF).
- The new wastewater treatment plant must meet the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy as required for all large wastewater treatment plants in Iowa.
- Indianola WRRF will be one of the first wastewater treatment facilities in Iowa to meet the new nutrient removal requirements.
- The process to design and construct a new wastewater treatment facility is a rigorous one with multiple regulatory requirements that need to be met.
- As part of its diligence, the city conducted a comprehensive study to review all available options. Indianola completed its study in 2014 and evaluated several options, including:
 - Renovating the current site
 - Connecting to the Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA) in Des Moines
 - Build a new WRRF at the city farm site northwest of town
- Indianola's farm site was deemed to be the most economical and viable option.
- The current plan is an innovative design that not only meets new requirements, but also treats peak flows in real time. The custom wastewater treatment solution selected reduces typical facility costs by \$12 million.
- A Local Option Sales Tax, passed in March 2016, has and will continue to benefit Indianola residents. With tourism events like the National Balloon Classic, Warren County Fair and Des Moines Metro Opera, Simpson College and others such as the Missouri Valley Technical Training facility drawing thousands of visitors to the community, the Local Option Sales Tax helps offset costs for the project because of the support of our local economy.
- Wastewater treatment facilities are not funded with property taxes, rather they are enterprise funds, which means funding is by user rates.
- Projections for when the Local Option Sales Tax was passed estimated that user rates would remain unchanged for several years. Without the passage of the Local Option Sales Tax, user rates would need to be raised by \$30.40 per month (based on average residential monthly bill with 4,000 gallons).
- Even with a rate adjustment in FY 21 (estimated at \$12.40 per month for the average user), Indianola will remain more affordable than many other communities throughout the greater Des Moines metro area and the State (especially factoring in those facilities that will need to upgrade to meet the costly requirements for the Nutrient Reduction Strategy).
- The last rate adjustment for Indianola residents was in September 2013 when rates were raised from \$32.50 to \$35.15 (based on average residential monthly bill with 4,000 gallons).
- Rates are not arbitrarily selected but are set to meet all the operation and maintenance costs of the facility and the collection system.

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